

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA clone encoding a threonine importer from *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, wherein the threonine importer is ~~expressed~~ encoded by a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772<sup>nd</sup> base to the 3,025<sup>th</sup> base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~increasing the yield of~~ preparing a threonine-producing strain by defecting the threonine importer from a *Corynebacterium glutamicum* strain having a low threonine requirement as compared to a wild strain ~~of having normal threonine requirements~~ *Corynebacterium glutamicum*, wherein the threonine importer is ~~expressed~~ encoded by a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772<sup>nd</sup> base to the 3,025<sup>th</sup> base among DNA sequences with the SEQ. ID. No. 1.

3. (Original) A threonine-producing strain prepared by the method as set forth in the claim 2.

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA clone encoding a threonine importer consisting of a sequence expressed by a continuous DNA sequence from the 1,772<sup>nd</sup> base to the 3,025<sup>th</sup> base among DNA sequences with the SEQ ID. No. 1.